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PANEL—BY HOKUSAI

comprises water colors and pencil drawings of the contemporary renaissance of art in India. Abanindranath Tagore, who is the leader of the new awakening

in the pictorial art expression of his country, is represented by several works.

RARE JAPANESE BOOKS

AMONG the recent accessions to the Ryerson Library is a collection of one hundred and thirty-five volumes of old Japanese illustrated books.

The collection is noteworthy in several respects, and should be of especial value to students. The illustrations are for the most part by famous artists and present phases of their work not so clearly displayed in their large color prints or in their paintings. Several different schools are represented. In character the books vary widely. The earliest were published about 1680; the latest, with one exception, about 1860.

The Art of Flower Arrangement is exemplified in four works (eleven volumes) presenting "arrangements" by masters of the Kōfyu, Ikenobu, Genchu and Enshu schools, each in its own way a lesson in composition of line.

A number of the books give small reproductions of paintings by different masters. One is a collection of old brocade designs; another illustrates ancient theatrical customs; another, in three volumes presents "Flowers of Mountain and Field." Many are illustrated by Hokusai. Among these is an excellent set of his famous "Manga," or "Miscellaneous Sketches," in fourteen volumes. Less well-known, but of equal interest are several small volumes of instruction in drawing, the various subjects being analyzed from the point of view of composition and technique, the several strokes used in producing them being shown separately and numbered to indicate their

proper sequence. One of the rarities is a tale by Bakin which Hokusai has illustrated in an unusual style. Of two of his books of Edo views, in full color printing, there are fine copies in splendid condition.

By Hishikawa Moronobu there is a volume of designs for Japanese Gardens, one of illustrations of "prize poems," and one of famous incidents in history and legend. Of the "Itcho Gafu," a noted collection of sketches, many of them comic, by the famous eclectic artist Hanabusa Itcho, there is a fine large-paper copy. This was printed in 1770, as was another and much rarer book, a collection of one hundred pictures by the same artist, a fine copy of which is also in the collection.

Space does not suffice to describe even briefly all of these books. Attention should, however, be called to those containing exceptionally clever sketches by Kitao Masayoshi, and especially to the designs of poetically related objects shown in the five volumes of the "Keisei Soga." Besides these the books of the Korin school, several illustrated by Gakutei, a rare volume of rapid drawings by Koryusai, another of sketches of travellers by Nangaku and Bumpo, and several works illustrated by Hokusai's pupil Hokkei should not be overlooked.

Because of the soft, unsized, and frequently very thin paper upon which they are printed, Japanese books are easily damaged, and it is difficult to find copies that are in as generally good condition as are most of those in this collection. They are all block books, that is, books printed not from type, but from engraved blocks. The earlier impressions from these blocks were much superior to later strikes, and



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because of this very late impressions are apt to have little artistic value.

FREDERICK W. GOOKIN.